

hinterland, southern border regions between the safer legal ports of entry, the cartels smuggle people and drugs into the United States. State and local officials do what they can to help the Feds protect these areas, but they are simply outmanned and out-equipped.

Madam Speaker, the Border Patrol needs help from local officials. Millions of pieces of equipment will soon return from Iraq. This includes UAVs that could be used as eyes in the sky for the border defenders. This equipment could fill in the massive gaps in surveillance of remote areas of the border.

I've introduced the SEND Act that would send UAVs, HUMVEES, and night surveillance equipment to our border governments. Washington could partner with border States to protect America. Sending surplus military equipment to the southern border will give Americans a return on their investment by enhancing our national security.

The American people have invested billions of dollars in equipment used to secure Iraq. Now it's time to use this same equipment to secure the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1210

HIRING OUR VETERANS

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. As a daughter of a Korean war veteran, I firmly believe that we have a responsibility to better insure that our Nation's veterans find work when they return home.

To me, veterans, especially post-9/11, are struggling to find employment. We can and must do better. Last week, I introduced the Hiring Our Veterans Act to strengthen current law that I introduced and championed successfully in 2007 and again in 2009, which provided a tax credit to employers to hire unemployed veterans.

Today, the House of Representatives, in a bipartisan way, will pass legislation that builds on this effort and expands job opportunities for our veterans. It will expand the maximum tax credit available to employers who will hire disabled veterans who have been unemployed for 6 months, and it strengthens the hiring tax credit to benefit both short-term and long-term unemployed veterans.

This is a huge victory for our brave men and women and their families who have sacrificed so much for our Nation and our freedom. And as we wind down two wars, it is our duty and our honor to support our veterans and better insure that they have good, stable jobs when they return to home.

McKEE FOODS

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor McKee Foods, a company in my district best known for its Little Debbie snack cakes.

McKee Foods is a role model for companies across the country. It is a company committed to excellence—excellence in customer service, excellence in the treatment of its employees, and excellence in finding a better way, which, by the way, is McKee's motto.

In 1982, the company built a plant in Gentry, Arkansas. Today, the plant is the lifeblood of the community. It employs more than 1,500 people who take pride in their work, who are loyal to their company, and who believe in service to their community.

McKee has been best known for developing innovative processes to improve its operations and become a better corporate citizen. That's why the company's recent announcement that its Gentry plant produces zero landfill waste comes as no surprise.

Two years ago, McKee's plant management team and employees came together and challenged themselves to be better stewards of the environment by producing zero landfill waste. True to form, the plant teamed up with local recycling companies and put in place new processes to achieve this goal.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate McKee Foods for its accomplishment. It is a tribute to the dedication of the company's leadership and its employees.

JULIE MICHELSON

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. I rise today to honor Rhode Island's former attorney general, Julius Michelson. Julie passed away at his home this past Saturday.

Julie Michaelson was a brilliant and caring man, deeply committed to social justice and equality. He was an accomplished lawyer and a distinguished public servant who served our country both abroad and at home.

Julie was a first lieutenant in the Army in World War II. A passionate defender of justice, he also served as general counselor to the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, a State senator in Rhode Island, and State attorney general.

Julie is credited with playing a key role in the passage of our State's fair housing law, which prohibits discrimination in access to housing.

I had the pleasure of knowing Julie as a friend, a colleague, and a neighbor. His role in the community and his commitment to justice was unmatched. He made the world a better place.

I offer my sincere condolences to Rita and the entire Michelson family. Julie Michelson will be greatly missed.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, this is a tale of two jobs programs.

In the first, the government moves to put \$500 million in loans in a private company. These loans are supposed to build a factory and create what the Vice President calls permanent jobs. The President tours their facilities, the Secretary of Energy lauds the company, top White House officials show an interest in the project, OMB worries are overruled, and the money is handed out. A year later, the company is bankrupt and all of the government money is lost.

In the second tale, a private company wants to build a pipeline that would create 20,000 jobs directly and a hundred thousand jobs indirectly. They don't need a single dime of government money. In fact, they're paying the bill for significant government environmental reviews of the project. Even though their project is declared safe by the State Department, they're ordered to perform another year of environmental studies.

Solyndra and Keystone XL—we have a White House that is eager to waste the public's money on one failing company but stands in the way of another company who doesn't need a dollar from the American taxpayer. Go figure.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. More than 400 unemployed Americans have shared their story with us in the last 2 weeks. Here they are. They illustrate in no uncertain terms the urgent need for Congress to extend Federal unemployment insurance through 2012. Without action, 2 million Americans will lose their benefits by February, as shown in this chart. Two million Americans like Phil from Clinton Township. He wrote to us with a resolve common among the stories that we've received, and I quote:

"I am by no means unintelligent. I am by no means lazy. And I am by no means giving up. Without unemployment benefits, I will not be able to pay my bills (including my cell phone so I may receive calls from potential employers) and finding something to eat will become increasingly difficult."

Congress has never allowed the Federal program to expire with the unemployment rate as high as it remains today, and we must not start now. We must act now.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the American people to let their voice be heard. Our crushing national debt and our

out-of-control spending is something that has been made aware of for so many, but it is time to do something about it.

As part of the House Republican plan for America's job creators, we have a stated goal: to pay down America's unsustainable debt burden and start living within our means.

Madam Speaker, when I served in the Michigan Legislature, we had to live under that same requirement of a balanced budget according to the Michigan Constitution. It made for some very, very difficult decisions.

But you know what, Madam Speaker? The American people are not only ready, they are asking for this reasonable step to be made for us to insert this balanced budget amendment into the United States Constitution as well. They need to do it in their own lives. It's time government do it as well with theirs.

Living within our means is a requirement in their lives. It is a requirement for a vast majority of the State governments. It's time that the Federal Government do that as well.

It's time for your voice to be heard. And, frankly, Madam Speaker, it's time for the American people to hold accountable those who will not listen.

VETERANS AND JOBS

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Last week we celebrated Veterans Day, a time to remember those who have served our country and their families. As a nation, we must live up to our obligations and responsibilities to care for our servicemen and -women from the moment they join up and throughout their lives. And we have done this through the post-9/11 GI Bill and our efforts to strengthen TRICARE.

But now, with over 12 percent unemployment for veterans, there's so much more we must do. And that's why I support the putting veterans to work tax credit for hiring veterans and wounded warriors that will be on the floor today, and it's why I introduced my own legislation to help our military medics transition into civilian EMT jobs so that they can continue their service here at home.

Our commitment to our men and women in uniform doesn't end when they return. It lasts a lifetime. I urge my colleagues to support these bills so we can fulfill our commitment.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, this week we will take what I believe is one of the most important votes we will ever cast in the U.S. Congress on adding a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

With our national debt approaching \$15 trillion—more than \$47,900 for every man, woman, and child in this Nation—it's time to get serious about spending. That's why we must succeed where other Congresses have failed and send this amendment to the States for ratification. According to the CBO, the budget submitted by the President earlier this year would, at no time over the next 10 years, bring the annual deficit below \$748 billion.

This balanced budget amendment would require Washington to live within its means just exactly like families do, cities, counties, States do every day. It simply says that spending cannot exceed revenues unless three-fifths of each Chamber approves.

Forty-eight States, including my home State of Tennessee, already have a balanced budget amendment. This is just common sense. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the principles that it represents: Spend less than you take in.

LOCAL FARMS, FOOD, AND JOBS ACT

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, when I moved to Maine 40 years ago and started a little organic farm, growing and selling healthy food locally was out of the mainstream. It was something that the back-to-the-land crowd was into, but here in Washington the government was pushing farmers to, in the words of Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, "Get big or get out."

It turns out that kind of thinking wasn't good for family farms, it wasn't good for rural communities, and it wasn't good for our Nation's health. That's why I've introduced a bill that is intended to make it easier for farmers to sell food locally and regionally, make it easier for schools to buy healthy local food and easier for us to rebuild the local and regional food systems.

Over 100 organizations and 53 of my colleagues have endorsed the Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act, a package of reforms to the farm bill that will help move our Nation's food policy in the right direction.

Everywhere I go, people just want to know that the food they put on their table is healthy, fresh, and good for their family. This bill will help make that easier for American families.

□ 1220

FOOD MARKETING RESTRICTIONS

(Mr. GIBSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GIBSON. I rise to share my disappointment with the recent proposal by the administration to restrict food

and beverage marketing. Like many Members of this body, I am concerned about the rise in childhood obesity. However, the proposed guidelines will do little to address the issue. In particular, I am concerned that this proposal blatantly contradicts existing Federal nutrition standards.

Under the administration's food marketing restrictions, many healthy products could no longer be advertised or marketed, including most soups, breads, cereals, yogurts, and most cheeses. These unreasonable standards impact products that are considered healthy by the administration's school lunch program, WIC program, and new dietary guidelines.

Any proposal to regulate food should be based upon sound nutritional standards and common sense. We should let science, not politics, lead the way. The first step is to complete the study originally requested by Congress, and then we'll go from there.

ARMY STAFF SERGEANT ARI CULLERS

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of Army Staff Sergeant Ari Cullers, who lost his life on October 30, 2011, while serving in Kandahar province in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Cullers was born 28 years ago in New London, Connecticut, and later moved with his family to Waterford, where he attended school and graduated from Waterford High School in 2001. As his principal, Don Macrino, said, "He was a hard worker at school, but when he got into the service, I think that was a place where he felt he could really make his mark."

He joined the Army in 2004 and was deployed twice to Afghanistan—the first tour in December 2008—and returned again this year in March before he perished a few weeks ago.

Ari Cullers' passing reminds us of the sacrifices that have been made and that continue to be made by our military overseas. Last Thursday, the day before Veterans Day, there was a huge outpouring of support from Waterford's townspeople, who lined the streets. They knew Ari; his mother, Robin; and his brother, Jacob, who himself has served a tour of duty in Iraq. There were many there who did not know Ari but who wanted to pay respect for his sacrifice and service.

I ask my colleagues to join them in honoring Ari Cullers' life and service to our Nation and in extending our condolences to his family.

SANDY PERL

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sandy Perl for